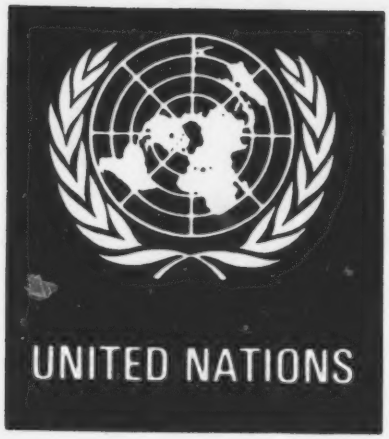

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. TWENTY-FIFTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, FROM 2 TO 6 APRIL 1990

The Twenty-fifth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine (Sixth African Regional Seminar) entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held jointly with the Third United Nations African Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine at the International Conference Centre, Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 2 to 6 April 1990, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 44/41 B of 6 December 1989.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising: H.E. Mrs. Alsa Claude Diallo (Senegal), Head of the delegation and Seminar Chairman; H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic); H.E. Mr. Tom Obaleh Kargbo (Sierra Leone) who served as Rapporteur; H.E. Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan (India); and Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi (Permanent Observer of Palestine).

Seven meetings were held and 16 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. Representatives of 14 Governments, Palestine, United Nations organs, United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations attended the Seminar.

The joint event was opened by Mrs. Diallo and a welcoming address was made by The Hon. Alhaji Dr. Abdul Karim Koroma, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was read out by his representative Mr. Naseem Mirza, Chief, Division for Palestinian Rights. Mrs. Diallo also addressed the meeting as did Dr. Morad Ghaleb, President of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, on behalf of the African non-governmental organizations. Mr. S. H. Gerjawi, Ambassador of Palestine in Sierra Leone read out a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Further statements were made by the following: Mr. Kargbo on behalf of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; Mr. Oudovenko, Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid; Mr. Nabil Marouf, Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and Mr. Nguug Etish Mowotsh on behalf of the Organization of African Unity.

Concluding statements were made by H.E. Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbi, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Willie Jones, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Mrs. Diallo.

For its own part, the Seminar adopted a message to Mr. Arafat as well as a motion of thanks to the Government and people of Sierra Leone. The Seminar also adopted a message to the Foreign Minister of Israel deeply regretting that a travel permit had not been issued by the Israeli authorities to Mr. Abu-Alnassir, who had been invited as a panelist.

The three panels that were established and their panelists were as follows:

1. (a) "The urgency of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East"; (b) "The intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory and its impact on the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict."

Mr. Vital Balla (Congo), Mr. Benjamin Beit-Hallami (Israeli), Mr. Yehia El-Gamal (Egypt), H.E. Mr. Latyr Kamara (Senegal), Mr. Moibo Noumoudion Kouyate (Mali), Senator Michael Lanigan (Ireland), Mr. Andrew Seleke (ANC), Mr. A. S. Zasypkin (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. Salah Zuheikeh (Palestinian).

2. (b) "The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the social, cultural, economic and political development of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Jinnies Issa Atrash (Palestinian).

3. "The mobilization of public opinion in the African region for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Farouk Abu Eissa (Sudan), Dr. Bukar Bukarambe (Nigeria), Mr. Gipu Felix-George (Sierra Leone), Mr. Ahmed Gora Ebrahim (PAC), Mr. Mikko Lohikoski (Finland) and Mr. Lamine Jawara (Gambia).

The expert members of the panels agreed on summaries of the presentations and the discussion on the three topics. The full text of the proceedings will be published in due course as a publication of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The participants in the Seminar expressed their conviction that recent developments regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core, the question of Palestine, have created a new momentum for bringing about a solution to this complicated and dangerous conflict on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations and within its framework. The courageous and determined struggle of the Palestinian people to attain and exercise its inalienable rights, primarily the right to self-determination, has been dramatically manifested in the continuing and intensified Palestinian uprising, the intifadah, in the occupied Palestinian territory as well as in the Palestinian peace initiative proclaimed in November 1988. The present international climate, which is characterized by the political will to resolve regional conflicts in a

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peaceful way through negotiations within the framework of the United Nations, is especially conducive to the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine. It is imperative that this historic opportunity not be missed and that efforts be redoubled in 1990 to overcome remaining obstacles so that the process of negotiations within the context of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East can be initiated without further delay.

2. The participants in the Seminar noted with appreciation the sustained and continuing support by the Governments and peoples of the African region for the exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate national rights and for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The position of these States, as manifested in the declarations and resolutions of the Organization of African Unity, was one of solidarity with and support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for an independent State of Palestine and for the exercise of its inalienable rights. In this context, the participants stressed the importance of intensified Afro-Arab relations both bilaterally and within the framework of the OAU and the League of Arab States. They asked, in particular, the Palestine Liberation Organization to intensify and enhance the level of its relations with the African States. The Seminar welcomed the recognition of the State of Palestine proclaimed by the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November 1988, by many African Governments as a manifestation of solidarity of the countries of the region with the people of Palestine. At the same time, it expressed concern about resuming diplomatic ties with Israel by some African States.

3. The participants in the Seminar, in reviewing developments concerning the question of Palestine, welcomed the decisions adopted by the PNC at Algiers in November 1988 as reflected in its Political Communiqué and the constructive position taken by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly at Geneva on 13 December 1988, which presented the Palestinian peace initiative. These developments had led to the adoption of resolution 43/176 on 15 December 1988 and have become important landmarks in the international endeavours aimed at achieving a just settlement of the question of Palestine. The Seminar also noted with great satisfaction the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989. The participants, were greatly encouraged by the vote on this balanced and comprehensive resolution (151 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention), which was supported by an even larger number of States including all Member States of the OAU, and for the first time, by all States members of the European Economic Community. This important development once again reflected the overwhelming support of the international community for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council. In order to realize, inter alia, the legitimate national rights of the

Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, the Conference should be convened on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and other relevant resolutions. The participants noted with regret that the negative position of a permanent member of the Security Council and another State, party to the conflict, had obstructed the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989.

4. The participants noted that there existed a wide measure of agreement within the international community that a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement in the Middle East should be based on the principles outlined in General Assembly resolutions 43/176 of 15 December 1988 and 44/42 of 6 December 1989, and it should include the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other Arab territories; acknowledgement of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the States in the region, including Israel and Palestine, and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries; and finally, a satisfactory solution of the Palestine problem based on the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the occupied Palestinian territory.

5. The Seminar received reports regarding political developments in Israel resulting from the intifadah. The Palestinian uprising has had far-reaching effects on every aspect of Israeli politics. Specifically, it has led to a major government crisis and has helped the progressive forces fighting for a just peace to engage in dialogue and joint activities with the Palestinians as a way to promote mutual understanding and reconciliation and to break down prejudices and stereotypes. The participants warmly appreciated the demonstration in Jerusalem "1990, Time for Peace" held from 29 to 31 December 1989 where many persons including Israelis and Palestinians supported peaceful negotiations, respect for civil and human rights and the "two peoples, two States" principle. They considered that the United Nations should offer its good offices and organize appropriate activities to bring together Palestinians and Israelis under its auspices.

6. The participants expressed serious concern at the continued grave violations by Israel, the occupying Power, of the human rights of the civilian population in the occupied Palestinian territory, causing even greater suffering to the Palestinian people under occupation with far-reaching emotional, socio-economic and demographic consequences. The entire international community, as represented at the United Nations, has repeatedly declared that the Israeli policies and practices against the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory are in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, to which Israel is a High Contracting Party, and also contrary to United Nations resolutions and to generally recognized norms of international law. The participants appealed to the Contracting Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures to respect and to ensure respect for the provisions of the Convention. A matter of special concern for the participants was the suffering inflicted on Palestinian women and children as a result of the brutal Israeli practices. The increased restrictions of the movement of

individuals, health and social welfare organizations as well as the constant daily obstacles and harrassments have produced inhuman and intolerable conditions.

7. The process of Israeli colonization of the Palestinian territory as manifested in the continued establishment of settlements, usurpation of land and water resources, and the brutality of settler vigilantism was unequivocally rejected and condemned by the participants. They noted with appreciation that the entire international community had vigorously opposed the Israeli policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, which was in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and stressed that Israel bore full responsibility for these illegal practices. The participants noted the systematic increase in the number of Jewish immigrants to Israel and deplored the recent statements by the Government of Israel regarding the settlement of those immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory at a time when Israel denied the Palestinians the right to return to their homes. Any such action will be illegal and will complicate the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine. The participants appealed to Governments to ensure, that members of the Jewish community emigrating to Israel were not used as a tool to perpetuate and strengthen the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, in conformity with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which says in article 12, inter alia, that the right of everyone to liberty of movement and freedom to chose his residence and the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own "shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present covenant". In this connection, participants took note of the recent meeting of the Security Council and its consideration of the "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories". They urged the Council to condemn the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories, declare it illegal and consider them as a new and serious obstacle to peace and to call upon the Israeli Government to review and abandon its obstructionist position.

8. The participants were of the view that the intifadah was a clear manifestation of the popular and democratic expression of the collective will of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation that has given the struggle of the Palestinian people its hitherto suppressed identity and moral ascendancy. The intifadah, now in its third year, embraces three dimensions: the overt, visible and fearless resistance to the Israeli occupation and, the indivisibility of the Palestinian people and its sole and legitimate leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization; the opportunity for social transformation and nation-building as the embodiment of statehood through the establishment of authentic, alternative popular infrastructure of the Palestinian society; and, finally, the intifadah was instrumental in bringing about a clear-cut political articulation and direction as manifested through the PNC decisions of November 1988. The participants supported the view expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the message of the intifadah was direct and unequivocal, namely, that the Israeli occupation, which had been in effect for 22 years, was unacceptable and would continue to be rejected, and that the Palestinian people will remain committed to the exercise of its legitimate political rights, including self-determination.

9. The participants welcomed the fact that the Government of the United States of America had opened a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization and emphasized that the level of the dialogue should be raised and its scope should be expanded to include the consideration in a constructive manner of substantive issues so as to enhance the process of negotiations leading to a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

10. The Seminar participants appealed to the international community and, in particular, to the United Nations Security Council to take urgent measures to ensure physical protection of the Palestinian people under occupation, to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestinian people in all the territories under Israeli occupation. They urged the Security Council to take into account the gravity of the acts of violence and human rights violations, including the so-called policy of "transfer" or deportation of Palestinians, which have been repeatedly condemned by the Security Council and the General Assembly, and other forms of repression by Israeli authorities against Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory. They requested the Security Council to assume and discharge its responsibilities and to ensure protection of the Palestinian people under occupation. The participants again stressed the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and demanded that Israel abide by the Convention.

11. The participants welcomed the courageous steps taken by the Palestinians during the intifadah to end the Israeli occupation and to set up an alternative infrastructure as a foundation for an independent and sovereign State of Palestine. The Seminar considered that intensified efforts towards genuine development of the occupied Palestinian territory, with the close involvement of the Palestinian people through its representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, were a necessary corollary to renewed efforts to achieve a political solution of the question of Palestine.

12. The participants urged the Government of Israel to respond positively to the peace initiative of the Palestine Liberation Organization which had been welcomed and praised by the entire international community. Israel should recognize that it could no longer ignore the national aspirations of the Palestinians and continue to deny them their inalienable rights, in particular, their right to self-determination. The Seminar considered that the steps proposed by the Israeli Government were inadequate, since they did not include interim measures of protection for the Palestinian people and measures which would enable the Palestinians to exercise fully their right to self-determination. The participants called upon Israel to respond positively to international efforts aimed at a just and lasting political settlement of the question of Palestine which would be of benefit to all parties concerned including the international community as a whole.

13. The Seminar participants expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his continuing endeavours to advance the peace process, including the prospects for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The participants in the Seminar urged the Security Council to expedite the convening of the Conference and to adopt interim measures including the deployment of a United Nations force to safeguard the physical security of the people of the occupied Palestinian territory and to bring about stability in the region pending agreement on a final and comprehensive settlement.

14. The participants in the Seminar endorsed the persistent efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to secure universal recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and urged the international community to sustain and strengthen its support for the Committee's activities and, in particular, the Committee's efforts aimed at facilitating the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

15. The Seminar participants took note with appreciation of the activities of the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat and of its commitment to work, under the guidance of and in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East which would, inter alia, ensure the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights. The participants noted with appreciation that a much larger number of NGOs were participating in the regional NGO symposia and international meetings and requested that extra resources should be made available to cope with this work.

16. The participants in the Seminar requested the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, in full co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights to continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine and, in particular, to disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, to continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine, including Israeli violations of the human rights of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territory, to expand its audio-visual material on the issue, to organize fact-finding news missions to the area for journalists and to organize regional and national encounters for journalists.

17. Participants drew parallels between the struggle of the Palestinian and South African peoples. They expressed concern about the dangers emanating from the policies pursued by the régimes of Israel and South Africa. In this context they condemned the ever-increasing military and nuclear collaboration between the two régimes.

18. The participants welcomed the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners in South Africa, as well as the unbanning of the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and other organizations. At the same time, they urged the South African régime to implement conditions laid down in the unanimous declaration of the General Assembly special session against apartheid in December 1989 so as to create a climate conducive to negotiations aimed at eradicating apartheid.

19. Participants congratulated the people of Namibia on their independence and paid a tribute to their supreme sacrifice in achieving that freedom. They noted that the independence of Namibia was the latest proof that the legitimate yearning of a people cannot be denied or ignored forever.

20. Participants also noted that the process of Namibia's independence under United Nations supervision supported the proposal of the Palestine Liberation Organization to have a similar process in the occupied territories of Palestine. They emphasized that there was a need to involve international supervision to ensure that any peace plan to be implemented in the occupied territories was free and fair.

21. The participants in the Seminar took note with appreciation of the valuable support the Government of Sierra Leone had extended over the years to the just cause of the Palestinian people as well as of the efforts aimed at a just solution of the question of Palestine in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. They also expressed their profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Sierra Leone for providing a venue for the African Regional Seminar and NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, and for the facilities and warm hospitality extended to them.

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II. THIRD UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, FROM 2 TO 5 APRIL 1990

The Third United Nations African Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine on the theme "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held in Freetown from 2 to 5 April 1990 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/41 B of 6 December 1989. The Symposium was held concurrently with the Twenty-fifth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine which took place from 2 to 6 April 1990.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising: H.E. Mrs. Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal); H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic); H.E. Mr. Tom Obaleh Kargbo (Sierra Leone); H.E. Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan (India); and Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi (Permanent Observer of Palestine).

The Symposium was attended by 17 non-governmental organizations. Also present were representatives of 14 Governments, Palestine, 3 United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, as well as 2 intergovermental organizations.

The combined opening ceremony for the Symposium and the Seminar was addressed by those cited under chapter I above, regarding the concurrent seminar.

The Seminar and the Symposium shared three panels on different aspects of the question of Palestine as described under chapter I above.

Two workshops specifically related to NGO activities were established to take up the following topics:

(a) "Mobilization and networking by NGOs to ensure the protection of, and to promote assistance to, the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation"; and

(b) "Non-governmental organization activities to further mobilize public opinion for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

The Symposium decided to extend the term of office of the present African Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, until the next African Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine. The Symposium also decided to increase the membership of the Co-ordinating Committee by one person in order to include a member from Sierra Leone. The African Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine is composed of the following organizations: Afro Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO); African Society; Algerian Council of Friendship and Solidarity Among People; Arab Lawyers Union; Mauritius - Palestine Friendship Society; Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATOU); United Nations Association of Egypt; Sudanese Women's Union; Association of Journalists of Sierra Leone; The Supreme Islamic Council of Sierra Leone; Zimbabwe Palestine Friendship; and, the liberation movements, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, and the African National Congress.

The declaration of the Symposium which was adopted unanimously by the participating NGOs, is reproduced below. The report together with action-oriented proposals of the two workshop will be issued in due course as a publication of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

DECLARATION

1. We, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participating in the Third United Nations African Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, convened at the Bintumani International Conference Centre from 2 to 5 April 1990 in Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone, declare our total support and solidarity with the Palestinian people, in their struggle for full liberation.

2. We take this opportunity to applaud the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian People and reaffirm positively and unreservedly its extraordinary efforts for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its efforts to engender a new conscience of direction to achieve a just and lasting peace and the establishment of the independent State of Palestine.

3. We whole-heartedly reaffirm our support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise its legitimate and inalienable rights in the spirit and framework of the intifadah.

4. We further support all the Palestinian efforts towards a solution based on the initiative launched by the nineteenth extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council, held at Algiers from 12 to 15 November 1988. In particular, we support the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine as a bold and significant contribution towards the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

5. We call for the immediate convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices in accordance with the guidelines as given under the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly, General Assembly resolution 44/42 of December 1989.

6. We call upon all Governments to increase pressure both politically and economically on Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem and from the other Arab territories. We urge them to seriously consider the possibility of the use of collective economic sanctions as a proven and effective means of pressure.

7. We call for the strengthening of Afro-Arab solidarity and co-operation in support of the Palestinian cause and appeal to the African countries to further intensify their efforts towards the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of their own sovereign and independent State.

8. We urge the United Nations Security Council to take positive concrete steps to protect the human rights of the Palestinians within the occupied territories and to mobilize all the means within its power to prevent the creation of new settlements, the demolition of houses, the continued closure of institutions of learning, the policy of economic strangulation as exemplified in cruel tax raids and sieges as well as the use of administrative detention.

9. We sincerely and fervently hope that the outcome of the Seminar and the NGO Symposium will contribute positively to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, of which the question of Palestine is the core.

10. We reaffirm our unconditional commitment to support the Palestinian people in its quest to achieve the full realization of an independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

11. We deplore the Israeli authorities for the settlement of Jewish immigrants from the USSR and other countries in the occupied Palestinian territory, which is in flagrant violation of international law. This will further reduce the already limited resources available to the Palestinians of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. What is more, by drastically changing the demographic composition of the occupied territories, the settlement there of Soviet and other immigrants will push the prospect of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem yet further away and will further destabilize the already highly volatile situation.

12. We call upon all Governments to take measures that would prevent the continued brutal acts including the use of chemical weapons ("teargas") which has led to many miscarriages among the Palestinian women and, in some cases, has led to death among the very old and very young as well as acts of repression against children and workers in the occupied Palestinian territory.

13. We view with grave concern the development of the Israeli nuclear capabilities as a threat to international peace and security, in particular in the Middle East and parts of Africa.

14. We denounce the increasing economic, military and security collusion between Israel and South Africa. This collusion between the two racist régimes is mainly directed against the liberation movements in both South Africa and occupied Palestine as well as against the neighbouring States. Co-operation between Israel and South Africa had extended lately to all fields, including nuclear co-operation. The possession of nuclear weapons of mass destruction by the two régimes remains to be a real danger, an eminent menace to peace and security in the Middle East and Africa and the world at large.

15. We commend all Governments which have recognized the State of Palestine and we call upon all other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend all moral, material, financial, diplomatic and other assistance to the new State of Palestine.

16. We urge all African Governments that have relations with Israel to suspend those relations until Israel recognizes the establishment of the free and independent State of Palestine on the territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

17. We call upon African NGOs interested in the question of Palestine, in addition to establishing contact and supporting the efforts of the African Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, to establish direct contact with the Palestine Committee for NGOs in Tunis, Tunisia.

a) We call upon the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights to establish closer co-operation with both OAU and the League of Arab States in enhancing their common efforts regarding the Palestinian question and in particular, mobilization and networking among African NGOs.

18. In order to achieve the desired objectives of our resolution, we, the participants in the NGO Symposium consider advisedly the following programmes of action for implementation:

(a) Establish closer contact with the International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP);

(b) Consider all available assistance and facilities that could be provided by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights, in New York, from within the means available to them and in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures of the United Nations;

(c) Identify all significant days in the struggle of the Palestinian people such as 29 November (International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People), 15 November (Palestine National Council), 9 December (Beginning of the Intifadah) and 30 March (Land Day) for popular activities in their respective countries and communities;

(d) NGOs to call upon their Governments to contact the Government of the United States, to engage in a constructive and expanded dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(e) Continue strengthening and supporting the African Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine;

(f) Encourage African NGOs to visit the occupied Palestinian territory and to invite Palestinian NGOs from the occupied Palestinian territory to tour African States and further mobilize African public opinion, with the emphasis on the grass-roots level and on action;

(g) Observe an African-Palestinian Week with exhibitions containing pictures, videos, films and posters about atrocities committed in the occupied Palestinian territory;

(h) Utilize religious and social institutions as platforms for the dissemination of information relating to and promoting a just and lasting peace in Palestine;

(i) Mobilize the national and local media and involve cultural and other groups in the dissemination of information on the question of Palestine. This should include the twinning of towns, villages, hospitals, schools etc. between those in the occupied territories and other countries, to create a more intimate as well as a better informed concern for the Palestinian problem;

(j) Establish exchange programmes for African NGOs to invite Palestinian NGOs from the occupied Palestine territory to tour the African States and further mobilize African public opinion in support of the Palestinian cause;

(k) Invite the Nobel laureates and other international and notable personalities, to take a position and lend their moral support to the cause of the Palestinian people.

19. We append the workshop reports, which will be issued in the final report of the NGO Symposium, to be published separately by the Division for Palestinian Rights, and we urge African NGOs to work in a co-ordinated way to implement the recommendations.

20. In conclusion, we wish to extend our unqualified profound gratitude and support to the United Nations and to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and in particular, to its indefatigable Chairman, H.E. Mrs. Absa Claude Diallo, for her wise guidance and direction during all of our deliberations.

21. We wish to express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Sierra Leone for hosting the Third African Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine in this picturesque international Conference Hall. We thank our gracious hosts for all their kind assistance and efforts to ensure the success of this Symposium. We thank the Division of Palestinian Rights and the Department of Conference Services for facilitating our work.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. NGO symposia and meetings scheduled by the United Nations for the second half of 1990

1. The Seventh North American Regional Symposium will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 to 29 June 1990. There will be two panels regarding: "Breaking the impasse: Moving towards Palestinian-Israeli Peace and convening the International Peace Conference; and, "Intifadah update".

In addition, ample time has been allocated for action-oriented workshops under the title, "Milestones and future tasks for organizing NGO constituencies".

The event will immediately follow the Seventh North American Seminar on the Question of Palestine, to be held from 25 to 26 June 1990, which NGOs have been invited to attend as observers.

2. The Fourth European Regional Symposium will be held at Geneva on 27 and 28 August 1990. There will be two panels regarding: "Follow-up of 1989 workshop resolutions (health, education)"; and "Two peoples, two States: Europe's contribution to achieving peace".

In addition, four workshops on the following subjects will take place: Refugees; Culture; Involving Jewish communities in Europe, the new wave of immigrants from Europe; and, Trade.

3. The Seventh United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine will be held at Geneva from 29 to 31 August 1990, on the theme: "Palestine and Israel: Pre-requisites for peace".

Four panels will take up the following subjects: (a) Breaking the impasse in the peace process through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East; The influence of Palestinian, Israeli and international NGO co-operation; (b) Intifadah update; (c) The changing role of NGOs; and (d) Movement of populations: The law and the politics.

In addition, eight workshops will take up the following subjects: Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities; Women; Labour; Peace organizations; Health; Education; Agriculture; and Business co-operation and trade.

B. Information Received by the Division for Palestinian Rights in the course of April

1. Palestine News Agency, Inc. weekly newsletter available from: Suite 1071, 529 14th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20045.

2. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, newsletter concerning forthcoming peace march to begin in Amman, Jordan on June 1, 1990. Further information available from: ADC, 4201 Connecticut Avenue N.W. Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008.

3. News From Within, independent political newsletter available from: Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

4. Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee: statement received by the Division for Palestinian Rights expressing support for the Palestinian cause and drawing attention to the impropriety of any proposed settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

5. The Other Israel, newsletter of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Available from: P.O. Box 956, Tel-Aviv, Israel 81008.

6. TANMIYA, quarterly newsletter issued by the Welfare Association, a philanthropic foundation established in 1983 and registered in Geneva. Content of the newsletter deals with developments in Palestinian education, health, economic affairs and culture. Information available from: 7, av. Pictet de Rochemont, P.O. Box 602, CH-1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland.

7. Palestine Focus, newspaper of the Palestine Solidarity Committee. Information available from: P.O. Box 27462, San Francisco, CA 94127, United States of America.

8. Palestine Perspectives, bi-monthly available from: 9522A Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031, United States of America.

9. Tricontinental, available from P.O. Box 4224, Havana, Cuba.

10. AJME News, newsletter available from: Mrs. Richard Scott, 226 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg, PA, United States of America.

11. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan/ J and P, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier, 7509 Paris, France.

12. Amanecer, available from: A Nal. Amigos, Pueblo Palestino Al-Fatah, Apartado No. 241, 33280 Gijon, Asturias, Spain.

13. Jerusalem, monthly publication available from: Palestine Committee for NGOs, B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

14. Middle East Justice Network, newsletter available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA, United States of America.

15. Middle East International, bi-monthly publication available from: 21 Collingham Road, London SW5 ONU England, or, 1700 17th Street N.W. # 306, Washington, D.C. 20009.

16. The Other Front, newsletter available from: News From Within, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

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